

REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR

April 14, 2005

OUR BRRTS ON THE WEB UPGRADE IS HERE!

If you are one of our many customers who uses our database of contaminated sites, the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS), you'll be pleased to see that the wait is over. Our new, improved version of BRRTS on the Web is now available on our RR Program main page (lower left corner) at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/index.htm>. The new system first became available Tuesday, but our programmer has continued to work out a few bugs so we delayed our general announcement until today. If you experience any problems with BRRTS on the web, please use our feedback link built into the system. Also, the system may be slow at first if lots of users log on at the same time to take a look. New features that are now available include:

- an improved search engine with "fuzzy" searching that helps you find activities even when you're not sure of the exact name or address. Simply type in a word that you expect to be included, such as "Jones" or "Main" and the search engine will do the rest.
- a list of search results that identifies each activity's current status (e.g. open, closed),
- a display of all activities present at a single location (e.g. spills, LUST, VPLE, waste management licenses) when you click on the "location name", and
- a direct link to our GIS Registry of Closed Sites (for sites that are in the Registry).

In about a month we'll add more new search features that will allow users to search by specific actions, dates and more. Last but not least, we are working on a geo-application that will eventually display an interactive map of active and closed sites in our leaking underground storage tank (LUST) and other contamination (Environmental Repair, or ERP) modules of BRRTS.

THE GIS REGISTRY AND GRO/DRO CONTAMINATION

Recently, we have been asked how the soil cleanup standards in Chapter NR 720 apply to placing sites on the GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites. NR 720 currently includes standards for Gasoline Range Organics (GRO) and Diesel Range Organics (DRO). These standards were included to provide a "catch-all" category for petroleum contaminants. In 2002, however, the Remediation and Redevelopment Management Team decided to include a site on the GIS Registry based on specific contaminants like benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, etc., rather than on general GRO and DRO levels. Volatile organic compound (VOC) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) data are more useful to those looking for information in the GIS Registry than the GRO/DRO data. However, in a few cases when no specific VOCs or PAHs are detected but petroleum contamination is clearly present (e.g. hydraulic fluids), DNR may require that sites exceeding the soil standards for GRO and DRO be added to the GIS Registry in order to provide public notice of the residual contamination. The GIS Registry is located at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/gis/index.htm>.

2005 PHOENIX AWARDS

The annual Phoenix Awards recognize excellence in brownfield redevelopment. One winner will be selected from each of EPA's ten regions, one from outside the U.S. and special winners will be selected in areas such as redevelopment projects in small communities. Participants will be honored at an awards ceremony during the Brownfields 2005 conference in Denver, November 2-4, 2005. The deadline to apply for 2005 Phoenix Awards is **June 30**. For more information, please see www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/phoenixawards. More information about the Brownfields 2005 Conference is at www.brownfields2005.org.

DRY CLEANER REIMBURSEMENT NUMBERS

Wisconsin's Dry Cleaner Environmental Reimbursement Fund (DERF) is administered by DNR's RR and Community Financial Assistance (CFA) Programs. We have compiled the following summary numbers since our program was established in 1997.

- Number of dry cleaner sites in the program – 132
- Number of site assessments initiated – 132
- Number of site assessments completed – 45
- Number of site cleanups initiated - 36
- Number of site cleanups completed – 8
- Number of site closures approved - 8

Thirteen states have dry cleaner reimbursement programs - Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. Only four have completed more site remediations than Wisconsin. For more information about DERF, including eligibility requirements and statistics on program revenues and disbursements, please see <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/dryclean.html>. If you have questions about the program in Wisconsin, please contact Jeff Soellner, CFA at Jeff.Soellner@dnr.state.wi.us or at 608-266-1967, or Terry Evanson, RR at Theresa.Evanson@dnr.state.wi.us or at 608-266-0491.

REMINDER: SPAM FILTERS CAN INTERCEPT EMAIL TO DNR

All state agencies use filtering software to minimize receipt of spam emails. Spam is the primary route by which viruses and spyware infect our computer systems. Unfortunately, spam filters can also cause valid mail to be intercepted and not delivered without notifying the sender. So please do not assume that your important emails to DNR have been received – use a backup strategy. One way to do this is to activate the “mail received” option in your email service. You can usually do this for individual messages rather than for all of your email. If your email includes an attachment it is more likely to be caught in a spam filter, and you may want to send another email without the attachment to ask if your attachment has been received. A lower-tech option is to simply call to confirm that your emailed information has been received.

SUBSCRIBE FOR FEDERAL GRANT NOTIFICATIONS

The federal government has a web page and email notification system to help find and apply for grant opportunities in federal agencies. It is the access point for over 900 grant programs from 26 agencies. For more information, please see <http://www.grants.gov/Index>.